

**What is claimed is:**

1           1.       A method comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving an instant messaging (IM) address of a contact;  
3           receiving an email address of a contact;  
4           correlating the IM address to a single reference identifier (ID), the single reference  
5 ID being adapted to identify the individual contact; and  
6           correlating the email address to the single reference ID.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving an email address of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the email address of the individual contact to the reference ID.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving a telephone number of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference ID.

1           4.       The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving an address of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the address of the individual contact to the reference ID.

1           5.       The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving personal information of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the personal information of individual contact to the reference ID.

1           6.     A method comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM)  
3 addresses of an individual contact, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses  
4 from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit  
5 and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol; and  
6           correlating each of the multiple IM addresses to a single reference identifier (ID),  
7 the single reference ID being adapted to identify the individual contact.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving an email address of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the email address of the individual contact to the reference ID.

1           8.     The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving a telephone number of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference ID.

1           9.     The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving an address of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the address of the individual contact to the reference ID.

1           10.    The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:  
2           receiving personal information of the individual contact; and  
3           correlating the personal information of individual contact to the reference ID.

1           11.     A system comprising:  
2           receive logic configured to receive user input, the user input comprising multiple  
3           instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact, the multiple IM addresses  
4           comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts  
5           being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol; and  
6           correlate logic configured to correlate each of the multiple IM addresses to a  
7           single reference identifier (ID), the single reference ID being adapted to identify the  
8           individual contact.

1           12.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2           receive logic configured to receive an email address of the individual contact; and  
3           correlate logic configured to correlate the email address of the individual contact  
4           to the reference ID.

1           13.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2           means for receiving an email address of the individual contact; and  
3           means for correlating the email address of the individual contact to the reference  
4           ID.

1           14.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2           receive logic configured to receive a telephone number of the individual contact;  
3           and  
4           correlate logic configured to correlate the telephone number of the individual  
5           contact to the reference ID.

1           15.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 means for receiving a telephone number of the individual contact; and  
3                 means for correlating the telephone number of the individual contact to the  
4     reference ID.

1           16.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 receive logic configured to receive an address of the individual contact; and  
3                 correlate logic configured to correlate the address of the individual contact to the  
4     reference ID.

1           17.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 means for receiving an address of the individual contact; and  
3                 means for correlating the address of the individual contact to the reference ID.

1           18.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 receive logic configured to receive personal information of the individual contact;  
3     and  
4                 correlate logic configured to correlate the personal information of individual  
5     contact to the reference ID.

1           19.     The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 means for receiving personal information of the individual contact; and  
3                 means for correlating the personal information of individual contact to the  
4     reference ID.